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SYNOPSIS "THE GOLEM"

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In the year 1600, Rudolph of Hapsburg ruled in Prague while in the Ghetto of the city Chief Rabbi Loew, a famous astrologer, was recognized as an authority in the affairs of his people.

The Chief Rabbi's household consists of his daughter Miriam, a very beautiful girl, and Chilo a student attendant who is betrothed to Miriam.

One night the Chief Rabbi reads in the stars a warning of some calamity that is bent to befall his people and calls them together to the synagogue to pray. While they are praying, the Emperor signs an edict ordering the banishment of the entire Jewry from the city.

The edict is delivered to the Ghetto by one Sir Florian, a favorite of the emperor and a medieval light o' love. He is first taken to the house of Nehemiah the patriarch, who in turn conducts him through the streets of the Ghetto to the home of the Chief Rabbi. As they are approaching the home of the Rabbi, Miriam hears the commotion in the street and looks out of the window -- Sir Florian looks up -- and the fateful flirtation begins.

The party is ushered into the Rabbi's house -- and during the ensuing conference, Miriam enters the room with refreshments for her father's guests. The flirtation progresses.

The Rabbi hoping to avert the execution of the edict requests through Sir Florian an interview with the Emperor.

In the secret room of the Rabbi's house, is a clay image of a man of heroic size known as the Golem -- the creation of a renowned

magician. According to an ancient cabalistic legend, this image may be brought to life by placing in the star on its breast a certain magic word which can be wrung from the astral powers only by a prescribed conjuration while the stars are in a favorable constellation. The Rabbi consults his books and finds to his joy that the constellation is favorable. With the assistance of the faithful but terrified Shilo, he obtains the word and brings the image to life.

And the next day Florian returns with an invitation to the Rabbi to come to court and help entertain the imperial guests at the Feast of the Roses. After a test of obedience, in which the Golem is proved obedient and intelligent, the Rabbi decides to take him to Court with him.

Meantime Florian writes Miriam a note telling her that he will visit her at her house while her father is at court. Miriam is by this time infatuated with the gay Christian courtier.

The Rabbi proceeds to court -- and the Golem causes a sensation even among the ladies of the court -- the emperor requests new evidence of the Rabbi's magic powers - and with a solemn warning against any show of irreverence, the Rabbi calls up a vision of the wanderings of Israel hoping to soften the heart of the emperor. The fool, at the appearance of the Wandering Jew, starts a gale of merriment. Immediately the vision vanishes and the horror-stricken court looks up to see the beams of the roof descending on their heads. As they are about to perish, the emperor promises the Rabbi he will cancel the edict against his people if he will only save them. The

Rabbi summons the Golem to his side -- and the Golem standing in the middle of the room, upholds the beams on his powerful shoulders -- the people are saved.

Sir Florian has meanwhile kept his appointment with Miriam - she is waiting for him at the door of the house - they disappear within.

The Rabbi returns home deeply grateful for the deliverance of his people - and orders the gate-keeper to summon them to the synagogue for thanksgiving and prayer.

The horn of rejoicing wakens Chile - and the guilty lovers in Miriam's bedroom - Miriam looks out of the window and sees the street filled with a rejoicing crowd, and realizes that she and Florian are trapped.

The Rabbi returns to the upper room of his house and prepares to take the star from the Golem's breast - a warning that the creature may turn traitor to his master at certain changes of the stars hastens his determination that the Golem shall return again to clay. But as he reaches for the star, the Golem's expression changes from docile obedience to rage and hatred, and the Golem's hand protects the magic symbol on his breast. The rabbi, however, manages to surprise him and snatching the star away -- the image falls lifeless. Chile rushes into the room to tell his master that the people are waiting for him in the street - and the Rabbi leaves the Golem on the floor.

Chile is about to join the procession to the synagogue when he remembers Miriam - he dashes back to get her and as he arrives outside her door hears Florian's voice within. In jealous fury he rushes back to the upper room -- replaces the star in the Golem's

breast and brings the raging monster to life.

The Golem follows Chilo to Miriam's room - and immediately starts to carry out Chilo's command to kill Florian. The terrified Florian escapes from the room, only to be pursued by the Golem, now a monster of vengeance, to the tower of the Rabbi's house, where he is hurled from the parapet to his death on the street below.

The Golem meets Miriam on her way up the stairs - and seized with an evil desire for the girl carries her off to the room below - Chilo follows in terror and attempts to protect Miriam. But in vain - The Golem seizes a fire-brand and rushes for Chilo - Chilo flees in terror. The firebrand sets fire to the Rabbi's house - and the Golem drags the fainting girl off by the hair.

Chilo bursts in upon the ceremonies in the synagogue with the news that the Ghetto is on fire and the Golem is dragging Miriam through the streets. The people rush into the streets.

The flames spread rapidly and it becomes evident that only a miracle can save the quarter from destruction. The frantic people again beseech the Rabbi to use his magic powers. He goes up onto the wall of the Ghetto - and by prayer and magic stills the flames.

The Golem, now through with his victim, drags her in to the scene by the hair - and leaves her unconscious in the street, where she is found by the Rabbi and Chilo. The Rabbi revives her tenderly and leaves her with Chilo while he goes with the people to continue the search for the Golem.

Chilo promises Miriam that the past shall never be disclosed. Florian's body is consumed by the flames - and the erring girl is forgiven.

The Golem, remembering the attractions of the Emperor's court,

now makes his way to the gate that leads out into the city. Outside the gate, a group of Gentile children are happily celebrating the Feast of the Roses, unconscious of danger. The Golem breaks through the gate -, and comes directly down towards the little party. All of the children flee in terror but one tiny girl - the image of childish innocence.

The Golem continues to approach but she watches him unafraid. As he comes up to her, she offers him the apple in her hand with childish friendliness. The Golem is strangely pleased and takes her up in his arms quite gently. Her curiosity is immediately attracted by the strange star on his breast, and reaching for it quickly she takes it from its place before the Golem is conscious of her action. And the Golem falls lifeless to the ground.

The terrified crowd of searchers, apprehensive of new persecution should this monster break out into the city, come through the gate, and with intense relief behold the unharmed child sitting on the lifeless image,

The Jews carry the Golem back into the Ghetto and destroy him.

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